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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bruce
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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: November 12, 1952

SUBJECT: Call on Under Secretary Bruce of Chinese Foreign Minister Yeh

PARTICIPANTS: Foreign Minister George K. C. Yeh
Ambassador V. K. Wellington Koo
Under Secretary Bruce
Mr. Troy L. Perkins, CA

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REVIEWED BY CEC DATE 7-1-81

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Foreign Minister Yeh called by appointment today accompanied by Ambassador Koo. In a discussion of the current meeting of the General Assembly, Minister Yeh estimated that the actual work of the Assembly might well be terminated before the end of the year. The items before the Assembly, apart from Korean, were not momentous and Vishinsky's speech, he said, had slammed the door on the armistice question. Minister Yeh felt that the U.S. resolution on Korea would pass; China approved it wholly except for the textual reference in it to "the Chinese People's Government of the People's Republic of China" (an appelation which the National Government would consider unwarranted).

There was some discussion of the Mexican and Peruvian resolutions for an armistice settlement. Minister Yeh thought that the Mexican plan would have serious practical difficulties in implementation. Some of these had evidently not been foreseen: a hypothetical instance would be the transfer of Chinese POWs to a country like India, which has a Chinese Communist diplomatic mission; the Chinese Communist Ambassador would in due course request contact with the POWs--a request difficult to refuse--and the Communists would then almost certainly dispatch a series of special groups (such as theatrical companies) to cajole and coerce the men. Minister Yeh said he knew the Communist methods and he felt that we could almost certainly expect embarrassing things to happen under the Mexican plan.

Minister Yeh said he wanted to express appreciation of the work of our Mission

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Mission in Taipei, especially for the quality of its personnel and the excellent cooperation between it and the Chinese Government. He said relations between the two governments had never been better in his knowledge and he attributed this in great part to periodic informal meetings between Minister Rankin and himself in which upcoming problems could be anticipated and their impact consequently softened. He spoke in high terms of Minister Rankin who, although without previous China experience, had shown a realistic grasp and understanding of the National Government's own special difficulties. Minister Yeh also mentioned the good quality of the junior members of the Mission. In addition, he spoke of the excellent relationships he had with Dr. Schenck, head of our MSA Mission, and General Chase, head of MAAG. The relationship between the American groups was particularly good, he said.

Toward the end of the conversation, Minister Yeh gave some interesting information regarding the procedures followed in the Chinese Government when there is a change of Ministries; along with a rather elaborate ritual, special importance is placed on denoting, in each case currently before the Ministry, the status of action and the point where responsibility for action is passed on.

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